

Department is conducted. We have few instances of irregularities taking place in that Department. A visit to the Department will reveal the fact that persons are constantly asking for increasing postal accommodation. It is wonderful to me that the Department, having so much to do with the inhabitants of the country, should be as successful as it is and be so free from blame. In my county they occasionally complain of the small accommodation they receive, nevertheless if a vacancy occurs there is no trouble in securing the services of good men.

Mr. SCOTT. At the last Session some hundreds of dollars were expended for lock-boxes in the Winnipeg post office. Although a year has elapsed they have not been placed in the post office. With the large immigration that is taking place into that country, and the number of people desiring to receive and send letters, the city lacks necessary post office accommodation. An attempt has been made to increase the postal facilities, but it is absolutely necessary that Government should provide a sum for the construction of a post office commensurate with the increased demands for postal facilities in the North-West. The Government have lately assisted a little in increasing the facilities by appointing letter-carriers, but without a building of sufficient size the officers cannot discharge their duties. I read a letter to-day stating that people were paying from \$1 to \$1.50 for the privilege of getting in ahead with their postal matter. That is not a fair way to treat the North-West, and I trust, in the Second Supplementary Estimates, the Minister of Public Works will insert a sum sufficient to construct a post office which will suffice for the requirements of the North-West.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. This matter has not escaped the attention of the Government. The hon. gentleman has called the attention of the Government to the subject, and pointed out the requirements of the Winnipeg post office in order to afford accommodation in view of the large number of people who are going up to reside, to see the country, and to speculate, and the reports from Winnipeg were that the post office accommodation was not sufficient. On receiving those complaints directions were given to the Government architect to increase the accommodation, first, of the clerks inside, and, second, of the public. The space inside has been more than doubled. The outside of the post office, for the use of the public has also been more than doubled, and a second door is being provided, so that parties entering the post office will not have to return by the same door. This increased accommodation, with the extra clerks whom the Postmaster General has appointed, and the boxes placed through the city, as well as the letter-carriers appointed, must have relieved to a certain extent the pressure. We have to complain of the Winnipeg municipal authorities, that they have not numbered the houses. If that had been done at the proper time, we would have been able to place carriers on the route sooner, and relieved the post office. The municipal authorities have since given directions that the houses shall be numbered so that the population may be attended to by the carriers. I may add this information for the benefit of the hon. gentleman, that when the Estimates come down, he will find in those for 1883, an item for a new post office.

Mr. ROSS (Dundas). The hon. the Postmaster General thought I was exaggerating, but I have the figures here. I made no charge, because, as far as the hon. the Postmaster General is concerned, he has shown every disposition to meet the wants of the people in the most generous manner. I wish merely to substantiate what I stated by giving the figures. At Morrisburg, the postmaster, who has to employ an assistant, receives a salary of \$694, which with allowances has brought it up to \$874. At Iroquois, the salary of the postmaster is \$511. I know that the postmaster at Iroquois

has to rise to go to work at 6 a.m. and is employed to 9 p.m., with an assistant, and he receives \$911 for that work.

Mr. BURPEE (St. John). The hon. the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech referred to the Post Office expenditure. He took the years 1875 to 1879, showing the average annual expenditure to be \$1,709,000, and the average annual receipts \$1,149,000, average deficits annually \$560,000, for the late Government; while for the years 1880-81, the average annual expenditure was \$1,847,000, and the average annual receipts \$1,302,000, average deficit \$545,000, or a deficit of \$15,000 a year less than the late Government. Now, the expenditures were as follows:—

1874	\$1,387,270
1875	1,520,861
1876	1,622,827
1877	1,705,311
1878	1,724,939
1879	1,781,424
1880	1,818,271
1881	1,876,688

Showing an increase of \$59,000 in 1879, and \$58,000 in 1881. The receipts were:

1874	\$1,139,973
1875	1,155,332
1876	1,102,540
1877	1,114,916
1878	1,207,790
1879	1,172,498
1880	1,252,498
1881	1,352,110

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. It is important, for the purposes of comparison, that such years may be taken as may afford a fair comparison. The hon. member takes 1873-74 and 1874-75 and places these years against 1878-79 and 1879-80 and 1880-81, but he should remember that in 1873-74 and 1874-75 the Government were receiving a larger rate of postage on letters and newspapers and had not at that time granted increased accommodation to cities, which involved increased taxation. If we take 1875, we find that the expenditure was \$1,622,827, and the receipts \$1,114,000, being a deficit of \$607,802. The deficit in 1876-77 was \$590,316; 1877-78, \$517,148; 1878-9, \$612,005; 1879-80, \$507,773; 1880-81, \$544,002. The average deficits for the two years 1878-79 and 1880-81, was \$545,000, against \$556,849; making a difference of some \$12,000 or \$13,000 as between the last two years and the years previous. In the last two or three years a new system was adopted. As the late Postmaster General will recollect, a commission on sums is retained by postmasters, but I think in his time the whole sum was sent to the Department and the commission sent back. Of course this does not effect the balance, but it does effect the aggregates.

Mr. BURPEE. The hon. Finance Minister selects those years of the late Government when there was a decline of revenue. The rates were reduced, and therefore the revenue naturally fell off.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. The facts show that the revenue in 1875-76 was \$1,114,000, and in 1878-79 \$1,172,000.

Mr. BURPEE. The hon. gentleman will find that the receipts were, in 1875, \$1,155,000; in 1876, \$1,102,000; and in 1877, \$1,114,000.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. The same rates are charged now.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. Does the hon. gentleman deny that the result of these ameliorations has been to increase the matter transmitted by mail?

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. It is very likely, but I find in the four years to which I refer there was a slight increase of the revenue notwithstanding.